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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network ~~providing on-demand inventory management of hair care or cosmetic products~~, comprising the steps of:

~~locating a vending device in a salon;~~

authenticating a professional hair or beauty care provider to determine if said professional hair or beauty care provider is authorized to access one of said plurality of vending devices;

selecting said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from said an authorized vending device ~~machine~~ by said professional hair or beauty care provider;

purchasing said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from said authorized vending device by said professional hair or beauty care provider to ~~provide transaction data~~, wherein said transaction data comprises ~~an identifier of~~ identification information of said authorized vending device and said one or more hair care or cosmetic products purchased by said professional hair or beauty care provider from said authorized vending device;

transmitting said transaction data from said authorized vending device to a central computer over a said communications network; and

remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices ~~in the salon~~ by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said transaction data received from said each of said plurality of vending devices over said communications network when a purchase is made and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said updated inventory data, ~~thereby~~

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~~providing on demand remote inventory management maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of dispensing said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from said authorized vending device.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of purchasing comprises the step of receiving payment information from said professional hair or beauty care provider and verifying said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair care or cosmetic products by said authorized vending device.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of dispensing said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from authorized vending device if it is determined that said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair care or cosmetic products.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said vending device and inhibiting said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from being dispensed from said authorized vending device if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair care or cosmetic products.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said one or more hair care or cosmetic products purchased by said profession hair or beauty care provider from said authorized vending device.

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8. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network ~~providing on demand inventory management of hair care or cosmetic products~~, comprising the steps of:
- ~~locating a vending device in a salon;~~
  - accessing an accessed vending device from said plurality of vending devices by an operator to purchase one or more hair care or cosmetic products;
  - selecting said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from said accessed vending device by said operator;
  - authenticating said operator to determine if said operator is authorized to access said accessed vending device;
  - receiving payment information from said operator by said accessed vending device;
  - verifying, by said accessed vending device, said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair care or cosmetic products selected by said operator; and
  - dispensing said one or more hair care or cosmetic products to said operator from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said operator is authorized to access said accessed vending device;
  - transmitting transaction data to a central computer over said communications network, said transaction data comprising identification information of said accessed vending device and said one or more hair care or cosmetic products purchased by said operator; and
  - remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices in the salon by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said transaction data received from said each of said plurality of vending devices over said communications network ~~purchase~~ when a purchase is made on said each of said plurality of vending devices and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending

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devices based on said updated inventory data, thereby providing on-demand remote inventory management maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said accessed vending device and inhibiting said one or more hair care or cosmetic products from being dispensed from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair care or cosmetic products.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said one or more hair care or cosmetic products purchased by said operator from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said operator is authorized to access said vending device.

12. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network providing on-demand inventory management of hair care or cosmetic products having a plurality of shades, comprising the steps of:

locating a vending device in a salon;

selecting a shade from said a plurality of shades associated with said a hair care or cosmetic product by said a professional user on an accessed vending device from said plurality of vending devices;

determining by said accessed vending device a pre-specified amount of each base stock color required to prepare said shade selected by said professional user;

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receiving payment information from said professional user by said accessed vending device; and

verifying said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said hair care or cosmetic product by said accessed vending device; and

delivering said tray containing said shade of said prepared hair care or cosmetic product at the point-of-use to said professional user by said accessed vending device;

transmitting transaction data to a central computer over said communications network, said transaction data comprising identification information of said accessed vending device and said shade of said hair care or cosmetic products purchased by said operator; and

remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices when a purchase of said shade is made on said each of said plurality of vending devices and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said updated inventory data, ~~thereby providing on demand remote inventory management~~ maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of mixing said prepared hair care or cosmetic product by said accessed vending device prior to delivering said tray containing said prepared hair care or cosmetic product to said professional user.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said accessed vending device if it is

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determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said hair care or cosmetic product.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of selecting comprises the step of receiving a product sku number from said professional user by said accessed vending device.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of selecting comprises the step of displaying a set of said plurality of shades at a time on a display device of said accessed vending device to said professional user.

18. (Currently amended) The method of 12, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said prepared hair care or cosmetic product from said accessed vending device.

19. (Currently amended) A system for remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending apparatuses over a communications network ~~vending apparatus for providing on demand inventory management of a hair care or cosmetic product having a plurality of shades, each vending apparatus comprising:~~  
a user interface for selecting a shade from said a plurality of shades associated with said a hair care or cosmetic product by said a professional user;  
a processor for determining a pre-specified amount of each base stock color required to prepare said shade selected by said professional user;  
a device for receiving payment information from said professional user; and  
wherein said processor is operable to verify said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said hair care or cosmetic product;  
a plurality of reservoirs, each containing different base stock color of said hair care or cosmetic product, for dispensing said determined pre-specified amount of the respective base stock color into a tray to provide said shade of said hair care or cosmetic product; and

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a dispensing device for delivering said tray containing said prepared hair care or cosmetic product at the point-of-use to said professional user; and

wherein said processor is operable to transmit ~~a communications network~~ for ~~transmitting~~ transaction data to a central computer, ~~which over said communications network~~, said transaction data comprising identification information of said each vending apparatus and said shade of said hair care or cosmetic product purchased by said professional user; and

wherein said central computer is operable to remotely manage[[s]] inventory of each of said plurality of vending apparatuses by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses based on said transaction data when a purchase of said shade of said hair care or cosmetic product has been made on said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses based on said updated inventory data, ~~thereby providing on demand remote inventory management~~ maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses device.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus system~~ of claim 19, further comprising a mixing device for mixing said prepared hair care or cosmetic product.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus system~~ of claim 19, wherein said each vending apparatus further comprises [[ing]] a display device for displaying an insufficient fund message if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said hair care or cosmetic product.

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23. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 19, wherein said user interface is a keypad and said keypad is operable to receive a product sku number from said professional user.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 19, wherein said display device is operable to a set of said plurality of shades at a time on said display device to said professional user; and wherein said keypad is operable by said professional user to select said shade from said set of said plurality shades displayed on said display device.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 19, wherein said hair care or cosmetic product is a hair dye product.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 19, further comprising a printer for printing a receipt for said prepared hair care or cosmetic product.

27. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network providing on-demand inventory management of hair care products, comprising the steps of:

~~locating a vending device in a salon;~~

selecting one or more hair color products from said a vending device from said plurality of vending devices ~~machine~~ by a cosmologist or other licensed hair care provider;

purchasing said one or more hair color products from said vending device by said cosmologist or other licensed hair care provider to provide transaction data wherein said transaction data comprises ~~an identifier associated with~~ identification information of said vending device and said one or more hair color products purchased by said professional hair or beauty care provider;



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authenticating said cosmologists or other licensed hair care provider to determine if said cosmologists or other licensed hair care provider is authorized to access said vending device;

transmitting said transaction data from vending device to a central computer over a said communications network; and

remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices in the salon by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said transaction data received from said each of said plurality of vending devices over said communications network purchase when a purchase is made on said each of said plurality of vending devices and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said updated inventory data, ~~thereby providing on demand remote inventory management~~ maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of dispensing said one or more hair color products from said vending device.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of purchasing comprises the step of receiving payment information from said cosmologists or other licensed hair care provider and verifying said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair color products by said vending device.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of dispensing said one or more hair color products from said vending device if it is determined that said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair color products.

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32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said vending device and inhibiting said one or more hair color products from being dispensed from said vending device if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair color products.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said one or more hair color products purchased by said cosmologists or other licensed hair care provider from said vending device.

34. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network ~~providing on-demand inventory management of hair care products~~, comprising the steps of:

~~locating a vending device in a salon;~~

accessing ~~said~~ an accessed vending device from said plurality of vending devices by an operator to purchase one or more hair color products;

selecting said one or more hair color products from said accessed vending machine by said operator;

authenticating said operator to determine if said operator is authorized to access said accessed vending device;

receiving payment information from said operator by said accessed vending device; and

verifying said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair color products by said accessed vending device;

dispensing said one or more hair color products to said operator from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said operator is authorized to access said accessed vending device;

transmitting transaction data from said accessed vending device to a central computer over a said communications network, wherein said transaction data

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comprises ~~an identifier associated with~~ identification information of said accessed vending device and said one or more hair color products purchased by said professional hair or beauty care provider; and

remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices in the salon by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said transaction data received from said each of said plurality of vending devices over said communications network when a purchase of said hair color product has been made on said each of said plurality of vending devices and scheduling delivery based on said updated inventory data, ~~thereby providing on demand remote inventory management maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.~~

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said accessed vending device and inhibiting said one or more hair color products from being dispensed from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said one or more hair color products.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said one or more hair color products purchased by said operator from said accessed vending device if it is determined that said operator is authorized to access said vending device.

38. (Currently amended) A method of remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending devices over a communications network ~~providing on demand inventory management of hair care products having a plurality of shades at a point of use to a professional user,~~ comprising the steps of:

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selecting a hair color shade from ~~said~~ a plurality of shades associated with said a hair color product by said a professional user on an accessed vending device from said plurality of vending devices;

determining an amount of each base stock color required to prepare said hair color shade selected by said professional user by said accessed vending device;

receiving payment information from said professional user by said accessed vending device; and

verifying said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said hair color product by said accessed vending device;

delivering said tray containing said hair color shade of said prepared hair care or cosmetic product at the point-of-use to said professional user by said accessed vending device;

transmitting transaction data from said accessed vending device to a central computer over a said communications network, wherein said transaction data comprises identification information of said accessed vending device and said hair color shade of said hair care product purchased by said professional user; and

remotely managing inventory of each of said plurality of vending devices by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending devices based on said transaction data received from said each of said plurality of vending devices over said communications network when a purchase of said hair color shade has been made on said each of said plurality of vending devices and scheduling delivery based on said updated inventory data ; ~~thereby providing on demand remote inventory management~~ maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of said vending devices.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of mixing said prepared hair color product by said accessed vending device prior

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to delivering said tray containing said prepared hair color product to said professional user.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of displaying an insufficient fund message on said accessed vending device if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said hair color product.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of selecting comprises the step of receiving a product sku number from said professional user by said accessed vending device.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of selecting comprises the step of displaying a set of said plurality of shades at a time on a display device to said professional user by said accessed vending device.

44. (Currently amended) The method of 38, further comprising the step of printing a receipt for said prepared hair color product from said accessed vending device.

45. (Currently amended) A system for remotely managing inventories of a plurality of vending apparatuses over a communications network ~~vending apparatus for providing on demand inventory management of a hair care product having a plurality of shades at a point of use to a professional user, each vending apparatus comprising:~~

a user interface for selecting a shade from ~~said~~ a plurality of shades associated with ~~said~~ a hair color product by ~~said~~ a professional user and for accepting payment for a selected amount of said shade;

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a processor for determining a pre-specified amount of each base stock color required to prepare said shade selected by said professional user;

a plurality of reservoirs, each containing different base stock color of said hair color products, for dispensing determined amount of the respective base stock color into a tray to provide said shade of said hair color product; and

a device for receiving payment information from said professional user; and wherein said processor is operable to verify said payment information is sufficient to cover the cost of said hair color product; and

a dispensing device for delivering said tray containing said prepared hair color product at the point-of-use to said professional user; and

wherein said processor is operable to transmit a communications network for transmitting transaction data to a central computer, which comprises said over said communications network, said transaction data comprising identification information of said each vending apparatus and a product identification number associated with said shade of said hair care product purchased by said professional hair or beauty care provider, to a ; and

wherein said central computer, which is operable to remotely manage[[s]] inventory of each of said plurality of vending apparatuses by updating inventory data maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses based on said transaction data when a purchase of said shade of said hair care or cosmetic product has been made on said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses and scheduling delivery to said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses based on said updated inventory data, thereby providing on demand remote inventory management maintained at said central computer for said each of said plurality of vending apparatuses device.

46. (Currently amended) The vending apparatus system of claim 45, further comprising a mixing device for mixing said prepared hair color product.

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47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 45, further comprising a display device for displaying an insufficient fund message if it is determined that said payment information is insufficient to cover the cost of said hair color product.

49. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 45, wherein said user interface is a keypad and said keypad is operable to receive a product sku number from said professional user.

50. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 45, wherein said display device is operable to a set of said plurality of shades at a time on said display device to said professional user; and wherein said keypad is operable by said professional user to select said shade from said set of said plurality of shades displayed on said display device.

51. (Currently amended) The ~~vending apparatus~~ system of claim 45, further comprising a printer for printing a receipt for said prepared hair color product.